

LAUNAGS

According to KALME, in a report of 9 September, 1949, LAUNAGS' wife is Dr. T. LAUNAGS is a dentist living at Folkvandaren, Hild, Sweden. She serves as a care of address for LAUNAGS.

As of 11 February, 1950 to be known as Alfreds GANGIS, according to a letter received by KALME from LAUNAGS.

According to KALME:

Alfreds LAUNAGS, the political functionary of the Contact Group was born in Latvia on June 7, 1919. His father was a business man of some prominence during the first period of independent Latvia. VANAGS studied agriculture in the [Latvian University]. He joined the anti-Soviet underground immediately after Latvia was occupied by the Soviets in 1940. He distributed illegal anti-Bolshevik literature and helped the underground fighters to weapons and means for acquiring them. He was also instrumental in organising underground cells on a nationwide scale. On orders of the leadership of the Resistance Movement, he joined Communist organisations.

At the start of the German attack on Soviet Russia, Vanags organised a guerrilla group near Riga, which captured a Soviet ammunition train and defeated a Red military detachment. His group later joined the guerrilla formations of Riga. A detachment, under the command of Vanags and Colonel BERGS thrust in a southwestern direction into the town of Bauska, disorganising the retreating Soviet forces. They were enthusiastically greeted by the population of Bauska. But the local German military commander considered this an anti-German demonstration and disarmed Vanags' detachment and arrested its members. They were later set free, but had to return to Riga unarmed,

In Spring of 1942, Canags was assigned to secretly investigating the Plans and designs of the Gestapo with regard to Latvia. He succeeded in getting hold and studying HIMMLER's projects about colonisation and germanisation in Latvia. He put his observations down in a secret report which helped the central leadership of the Latvian Resistance to clarify its attitude toward the German occupation. This was the beginning of the compilation of a secret archive of anti-Nazi documents.

In March, 1943, VANAGS and other contributors of this archive were suddenly arrested by the Gestapo. During the investigation they were severely beaten and inhumanly treated. The investigation lasted for three months. VANAGS and several other active members of the underground were sentenced to serve a prison term in Valmiera. VANAGS was, however, liberated in December, 1943, but put under Gestapo supervision.

In August, 1944, VANAGS, in cooperation with other Latvian patriots, elaborated a plan for the creation of an anti-Bolshevik general staff. Soon thereafter, foundations were laid for an operative staff of the Latvian National Guerrilla Organisation to start operations in Kurzeme.

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At the beginning of 1945, VANAGS was appointed assistant to the political chief of the Latvian National Guerrilla organization. After the capitulation on May 8, VANAGS continued to coordinate and guide operations of the guerrillas in Kurzeme. He was also the author of the first illegal underground leaflet, urging the members of the resistance to continue their fight against the oppressor and not to lose confidence in the final victory of freedom and justice.

In August, 1945, VANAGS and his group were transferred to Sweden, with the assignment of establishing contact with western intelligence services, and asking them for moral and material assistance for the Latvian National Guerrillas. He was writing elaborate reports about the resistance in Latvia to Minister K. ZARINIS in London. Parts of his reports, without mentioning the author, have been published in Latvian newspapers, magazines, and other publications.

Section XXIII, 10:

I was arrested on 6 March, 1943, by the German SD in Riga, allegedly for being a member of a Latvian nationalist group which was preparing to overthrow the German occupation regime in Latvia, keeping illegally weapons in my apartment, conspiring against the activities of the German SD in Riga, sabotaging the establishment of the Latvian Legion. Had never a trial (though tortured and interrogated frequently); in June, 1943, I was told by the Commander of the German SD in Riga, LANGE, fnu, that my offense is listening to and distributing of foreign broadcasts (British, American, Soviet). Spent apr. two weeks in the prison cells of the German SD HQs on Reimersa Street, Riga; then transferred to the Central Prison of Riga where I was until apr. 12 June, 1942, then transferred to the Ersatzgefängnis in Valmiera, Latvia, to get there my "re-education". Transferred from Valmiera to Riga, the HQs of the German SD, on 22 Dec., 1943, and released on 24 Dec., 1943. Upon my release I was told that I had been imprisoned as a Latvian chauvinist and that I was released because of the bad health of my mother and the loyal attitude toward the German authorities of my father.

Fred G. Lanning

[REDACTED] NO/1 was [REDACTED] by a [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] "George King" who attempted to [REDACTED]
him and who, in answer to one of his queries, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] that "the Americans had given the British Service [REDACTED]"